

Tompkins County Youth Services Board

April 26, 2021 Minutes

Meeting via ZOOM.

Present: Patty Van de Bogart, Khaki Wunderlich, Ronny Hardaway, Marnie Kirchgessner, Ian Schachner, Lisa Monroe, Sara Watrous, Lisa Campbell, Glenn Morey, Magdalena Smith, Jennifer Foote-Dean

Excused: Tamer Elshourbagy

Staff: Kate Shanks-Booth, Bridgette Nugent

Guest: Pat Buechel

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

N/A

Approval of Nov/Dec. 2020, January, February, and March 2021 Minutes

Marnie motioned to approve all aforementioned minutes. Ian seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously with no corrections.

Membership Approval

Lisa Campbell motioned to approve the board appointment of Pat Buechel as an At-Large representative.

Marnie seconded. Pat's appointment was approved unanimously.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Funding & Village at Ithaca Application

- Patty, Khaki, and Ian of the Resource Allocation Committee provided an overview of the RHY funding that Youth Services has typically used to fund a host home model for youth at risk of running away and/or are homeless. The funding has supported Bridges and Berkshire Farm in the past and, since 2015, supported the Open Doors program at Family & Children's Services. As of December 31, 2020, Open Doors no longer operates given the inadequate amount of RHY funding available to support this program.
- After conversations with other community partners serving this population, the Village at Ithaca submitted an application to fund a host home program for youth. Upon review of the application, the RAC has the following concerns:
 - Current lack of staffing/infrastructure to support this program at this time.
 - An overall desire to better understand the needs of at risk youth in the county in order to best allocate the funds. The question was raised as to if this particular model is the best fit for the current needs.
 - It is generally agreed that there needs to be additional funding to support this and/or another model. If a well-resourced organization such as Family & Children's Services was not able to operate the program with this amount of funding, it doesn't feel responsible to fund a relatively new program with an organization that is also piloting several other new initiatives.
- Considerable discussion was had amongst board members regarding the way forward. How can Youth Services further engage with the Village at Ithaca and other key partners to 1) identify the needs of this population and 2) fund a model that best meets these needs. Most importantly, how do we ensure that the youth no longer being served by Open Doors are still being reached and served?
- Kate provided some additional context in that the RHY funding received via NYS OCFS can be re-allocated to the Learning Web's RHY services, freeing up that funding to be able to be allocated more creatively as county funding. She has also been in conversations with community funders (Park Foundation, Community Foundation, Human Services Coalition) and there is great interest in getting an understanding of the scope of this issue and how resources should best be allocated. Tompkins County Youth Services will continue

conversations with all community partners, to include the Village at Ithaca, and determine what potential collaborations could best be supported with this funding.

- Khaki made the point that as we move into issuing a new RFP in 2022, these conversations and collaborations will be imperative.
- Ian motioned to deny the Village at Ithaca's application; Ronny seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Kate provided updates on behalf of the Department and will send out document

- Update on Summer Camps 2021 – Kate will be the guest speaker at the Community Foundation's monthly virtual "Let's Talk..." on Wednesday May 4th to share information on summer camps this year.
- The 2021 Summer Camp Guide is in print this week via the Ithaca Times and available on the TCYSD website. It is being updated as information is received, and 75% of camps from pre-COVID have provided updated information on availability this summer.
- Park Foundation has funded grants to support summer camps with the administrative and training burdens associated with accepting subsidies from DSS. The Ithaca Youth Bureau has decided to move forward with accepting these subsidies.
- AYR data has been updated on the TCYSD's website, Youth Services Team always available to provide an overview on Achieving Youth Results and updated indicator data.
- Cradle to Career is currently deciding how to move forward, and whether AYR will be the cornerstone of their work. TCYSD will determine how best to support this Collective Impact model.
- Funding renewal applications for 2022 agency funding are being distributed this week and will be due at the end of May, after which RAC will review and present to the full Board.
- Meghan continues to be onboarded to the MYSS system and will take on all youth commissions aside from the JYC and Dryden. Regular staff meetings have been scheduled to ensure municipal youth commissions are on track to meet their identified 2021 goals.
- A list of monthly municipal youth commission meetings is provided, board members are all welcome to attend. Contact Meghan if you are interested in attending your local municipal youth commission meeting.
- Bridgette reported that she has been tapped to help coordinate rural vaccination clinics. This week there is a clinic in Newfield, and next weekend will be in Dryden. As community leaders, she will be tasking Youth Services Board members with spreading the word on upcoming clinics in their respective municipalities.

New/Old Business

- The Town of Enfield Community Council will host their Country Fair in their new Community Building. Contact Lisa Monroe for more information.
- Upon request of the Chair, Bridgette introduced her son, John, to the Board. Expressed her gratitude for the very generous gift from the Board and is happy to be back at work.

Meeting adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bridgette Nugent